

REMARKS

Status of the Application

Claims 1-26 were originally submitted with the application as filed. Claims 1-3, 5, 9, 12, 13, 15, 19-21, and 23 have been amended herein and support for the amendments can be found in the original specification as filed (See e.g., lines 26-29, page 2). New claims 27-33 have been added herein and are also supported throughout the original specification as filed. For example, the subject matter of independent claims 27 and 31 finds support in Example 2 at pages 15-27 of the specification.

By this amendment, claims 1-3, 5, 9, 12, 13, 15, 19-21, and 23 have been amended and new claims 27-33 have been added. Therefore, claims 1-33 are now before the examiner for consideration.

Conclusion:

The currently pending claims are supported throughout the specification and are patentable over the prior art. No new matter has been added. Allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

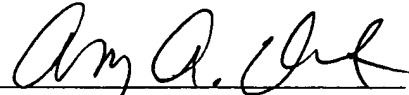
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee for the newly added claims and any underpayment or credit any overpayment of fees under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account 50-3110.

The examiner is invited to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this amendment, or if the examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 26, 2005



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Docket No: 6704-30